MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

30 NOVEMBER 1982

Lebanon

Multinational Force, Negotiations -- At a meeting of the multinational force's higher liaison committee, President Amin al-Jumayyil officially requested an increase in the size of the force in order to control the situation in the Ash-Shuf mountain area and to help the Lebanese Army spread its authority throughout the country, Beirut radio reported. According to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon, Al-Jumayyil has also asked Israel through U.S. envoys Philip Habib and Morris Draper to prepare a working paper defining its conditions for starting the negotiations on the IDF's withdrawal.

Security Situation -- Both Radio Free Lebanon and the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio reported further Druze-Christian clashes in the Ash-Shuf area.

Bashir's Assassination -- The official inquiry into the assassination of Bashir al-Jumayyil has established that diplomats from "an important East European country" smuggled into Lebanon a sophisticated electronic device which set off the explosion that killed Bashir al-Jumayyil, AFP reported citing a Lebanese news agency. A Palestinian leader and an Arab intelligence agency official reportedly assisted the diplomats in smuggling in the device.

PLO

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Amman and flew to Aden early on 30 November, AR-RA'Y reported. Earlier, after meeting with the Egyptian foreign minister in Cairo, one of the PLO leader's advisers said 'Arafat will visit Cairo soon although a date has not yet been fixed, Cairo radio reported.

In the wake of the 'Arafat-King Husayn talks, Amman radio announced that the PLO and Jordan have decided to form a joint committee to discuss Jordanian-Palestinian relations. While in Amman, 'Arafat chaired the committee's first meeting jointly with Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran, the radio noted. According to THE JORDAN TIMES, a PLO official who accompanied 'Arafat on his visit to Jordan said the PLO is currently examining ways to reach a formula which would provide for PLO participation in an Arab delegation for peace negotiations but which would be acceptable to the United States. The official also said that while the PLO Central Council's recent statement in Damascus criticized President Ronald Reagan's proposals, it did not reject the U.S. initiative outright.

Arab Committee

A Jordanian Royal Court source announced that King Husayn will lead the Arab seven-member committee during its forthcoming mission to the Soviet Union and PRC, Amman radio reported. Meanwhile, Rabat radio broadcast the text of a Moroccan Foreign Ministry memorandum which informed the United Kingdom of the committee's decision to cancel its visit to London. The memorandum described the British conditions for the visit as "inappropriate in form and unacceptable in essence" and said the attempt to impose "hurtful" conditions in advance was "discourteous."

Egypt

President Husni Mubarak left for New Delhi on an official 2-day visit to India, MENA reported on 30 November. Citing AL-AHRAM, MENA also noted that Mubarak sent Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Usamah al-Baz on an official mission to Jordan. According to Amman television, Al-Baz gave King Husayn a message from the Egyptian president.

Israel

Zaire Visit -- Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and a large Israeli delegation arrived in Zaire on a 3-day official visit, Jerusalem radio reported.

Inquiry Commission -- A representative of the commission of inquiry into the Beirut massacre interrogated a number of Palestinians who were in the Sabra and Shatila camps at the time of the killings, Jerusalem radio noted.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iran's Revolution Guards Corps Commander Mohsen Reza'i told a press conference that Iraq's minimum losses from the war amount to $30 billion, including 5,500 tanks and personnel carriers and 400 artillery pieces, Tehran radio reported. Iran has taken some 50,000 Iraqi POW's, he added. Reza'i also announced that Iraqi "mojahedin" will be transferred to regions of Iraq "liberated" by Iran.

Libya-Chad

Following the collapse of the OAU summit in Tripoli, Libyan media focused on the situation in Chad. Voice of Arab Homeland radio broadcast a cable from ousted Chadian leader Goukouni Oueddei to Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi that expressed appreciation for the Libyan stance; the radio also reported that the Chadian community in Tripoli staged a demonstration in favor of Goukouni. Meanwhile, JANA claimed that Chadian leader Hissein Habre has arrested some of his top aides and has executed a former minister in Goukouni's government.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 230 *30 November 1982*

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW 1

BANGLADESH

Ershad Departs on Official Visit to PRC 26 Nov D 1
PRC Agriculture Minister Arrives 26 November D 1
Ministry Spokesman Denies Deal With India D 1
Meeting on River Water Sharing With India Ends D 1

INDIA

Reportage on President Mitterrand's Visit E 1
Mitterrand Press Conference E 1
Gandhi-Mitterrand Meeting E 1
Mitterrand Parliament Address E 2
Mitterrand on Afghanistan [Paris] E 2
Gandhi Speaks on Solution to Akali Problem E 3
Ministers Return From Bangladesh-Assam Border E 3

IRAN

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,137 I 1
Statements Issued on Palestinian Solidarity Day I 1
Foreign Affairs Ministry I 1
Khamene'i Message I 2
Tehran To Host Global Prayer Congress 28 Dec I 3
Bulgarian Delegation Arrives for Talks 27 Nov I 4
Planning Discussed I 4
Memorandum Signed I 5
Speaker on Abuse of Iranian Students in India I 6
Hashemi-Rafsanjani 26 November Sermons I 7
Tehran Committee Head Flees to France [Free Voice of Iran] I 9

ERSHAD DEPARTS ON OFFICIAL VISIT TO PRC 26 NOV

BK261654 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1255 GMT 26 Nov 82

[Text] Chief Martial Law Administrator [CMLA] Lt Gen H.M. Ershad left Dhaka this afternoon on a 6-day official visit to China at the invitation of Premier Zhao Ziyang.

Talking to newsmen at the Zia International Airport prior to his departure, he said he will have talks with Chinese leaders on wide-ranging subjects including bilateral matters and regional as well as international issues. The deputy chief martial law administrator, Cabinet ministers, diplomats and high civil and military officials were among those present at the airport to see the CMLA off.

PRC AGRICULTURE MINISTER ARRIVES 26 NOVEMBER

BK261730 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 26 Nov 82

[Text] Chinese Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fishery Minister Lin Hujia expressed his country's very positive interest to share with Bangladesh progress in agriculture and relative fields. Lin was talking to newsmen at Zia International Airport this evening on his arrival on a 7-day visit to Bangladesh. He was received at the airport by Agriculture Minister Obaidullah Khan.

He said his country and Bangladesh are very friendly and have been exchanging ideas and know-how in different fields of development during the last few years. Lin said: We have come to congratulate Bangladesh for the big achievements made during the last few years and learn from each other so that the existing friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries become deeper.

MINISTRY SPOKESMAN DENIES DEAL WITH INDIA

BK271117 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 0100 GMT 27 Nov 82

[Text] The government has denied a report on any gas and power deal with India. A Foreign Office spokesman in Dhaka has said the attention of the government has been drawn to a report in a section of the local press alleging conclusion of a deal on gas and power between India and Bangladesh. The spokesman termed the report as malicious and baseless. It is an attempt to create misgivings in the public mind by mischievous speculations, he added.

MEETING ON RIVER WATER SHARING WITH INDIA ENDS

BK271119 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 0100 GMT 27 Nov 82

[Text] Water experts of Bangladesh and India ended the 3-day meeting on sharing waters of Gumti, Khowai, Manu and Muhari in Dhaka yesterday. The experts will discuss the issue further at the next meeting of the Joint Rivers Commission Standing Committee to be held in third week of January. The four-member Indian delegation later left for home.

REPORTAGE ON PRESIDENT MITTERRAND'S VISIT

Mitterrand Press Conference

BK291611 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Nov 82

[Text] French President Francois Mitterrand said in New Delhi this evening that his visit would foster much better relations between India and France and give them much more substance. He was addressing a crowded press conference at the end of his formal discussions with the Indian leaders.

Mitterrand stressed that India and France have very good relations and the purpose of his visit is to improve them still further. The two countries have similar positions on important world issues like the developments in west Asia, disarmament and the North-South dialogue. Bilaterally, there can be much more trade and extensive cultural exchanges.

President Mitterrand made it clear that the agreement for the supply of French fuel for Tarapur is within the framework of the 1963 agreement. There are no conditions. In reply to a question, he denied that the supply has anything to do with India's purchase of Mirage aircraft or other arms from France.

Asked whether France has been requested to attend the coming nonaligned summit in New Delhi as an observer, President Mitterrand pointed out that his country is a member of a military alliance and is not a nonaligned country. Because of its security requirements and the need to defend itself, France has to be a member of NATO.

Replying to a question on the Franco-Egyptian proposals for resolving the west Asia crisis, Mitterrand said anyone is free to support them. He asserted that India's position is not very different from these proposals. The fact that President Husni Mubarak is arriving in New Delhi tomorrow is merely a coincidence. He reiterated that the people of Palestine should have a right to self-determination and build institutions of their choice.

Gandhi-Mitterrand Meeting

BK291621 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Nov 82

[Text] President Mitterrand today discussed the international situation at an hour-long meeting with Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi who also hosted a lunch in his honor.

Ministerial delegations from the two countries discussed bilateral economic relations.

Commerce Minister Shivraj Patil, who returned today after attending the GATT meeting in Geneva, gave an account of the decisions taken there. The French side agreed that GATT should not be made an instrument of protectionism.

They also discussed the French offers for telecommunications factory at Palghat and geotechnical survey for the Oil and Natural Gas Commission. The Indian side said that a decision on them will be taken quickly.

The two countries also decided to set up a committee which will go into various aspects of cultural cooperation. The French minister for culture, Jack Lang, discussed with Information and Broadcasting Minister of State Salve the possibilities of closer cooperation in cinematography.

Mitterrand Parliament Address

BK291705 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Nov 82

[Text] Mitterrand has made a powerful plea to stop the arms race and said military blocs should not continue forever. Addressing members of Parliament in the historic central hall of the house in New Delhi today, the French president said the people of the world are not happy with the existing arrangement. France has suffered in two world wars and she strongly supports all efforts to bring peace to humanity. He described the Nonaligned Movement, of which India is a notable member, as a significant and important force.

Underlying the urgent need for global negotiations to establish a new and just world economic order, he said Paris favors greater aid in transfer of technology to developing countries.

About Indi-French relations, he said there has been longstanding affinity. It was Napolean who first founded a chair for Sanskrit and Vedic studies in Europe. However, the relations had not been too strong. When India achieved freedom 35 years ago, it took France a long time to realize the importance of India. There is now an atmosphere which favors strong and close relations.

When the French president arrived at parliament house, he was received by Vice President Hidayatullah, Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi and Speaker Balram Jakhar. As he was conducted into the hall, the members gave him a standing ovation. Hidayatullah welcomed him in French and said the ennobling French belief in republicanism influenced India's strong struggle for liberation.

Mitterrand on Afghanistan

LD291950 Paris Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 29 Nov 82

[Text] Today is the next to last day of President Mitterrand's visit. Addressing Parliament in New Delhi this afternoon, Francois Mitterrand pleaded for nonalignment and denounced the policy of blocs.

The French head of state had a long talk with Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on the new strongman in the Kremlin, Yuriy Andropov, and the possible consequences of his taking power -- among others, as far as Afghanistan is concerned. India has never condemned Red Army interference in Kabul. However, you will hear Mitterrand speaking to Ralph Into. Francois Mitterrand hopes that with Andropov in power there will be some changes to the good in Afghanistan.

[Begin Mitterrand recording] I have arrived at the conclusion that the Afghan affair is a poison in the Soviet body. This Afghanistan affair has moved the Soviet Union away from the nonaligned countries, from the Muslim countries, form Third World countries. This was the first of this kind since Lenin and it is not progressing militarily as the initiators of this operation doubtlessly imagined it would. This is embarassing. At present, when there is a change in power in the Soviet Union -- within the same system, of course, but still a change -- one can suppose that when making an assessment and wanting to start again, one seeks to abandon -- of course taking into account the principal interests of the power concerned, that is, the Soviet Union, one seeks, or so I think at least, a solution to the situation, an outcome. This is a reckoning not an analysis of facts since I don't know them. I have not sounded the conscience of Mr Andropov. [end recording]

GANDHI SPEAKS ON SOLUTION TO AKALI PROBLEM

BK261615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Nov 82

[Text] The prime minister has said that the government is prepared to adopt any course to find a solution to the Akali problem without causing any hardship to anybody. Mrs Gandhi was releasing a set of books on the Sikh religion in New Delhi today. The books were brought out by the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee.

Mrs Gandhi said the center has accepted the religious demands of the Akalis, but they have added more demands involving other states. She said without consulting them a decision cannot be taken.

Mrs Gandhi pointed out that while trying to solve the problems of the Akalis, the interests of others have also to be considered. She recalled that the Akalis started an agitation and then they said they will not talk at all. Later, they said they were ready to talk to Swaran Singh. She said all problems have to be looked at from the long-term view. The views of the Sikhs living outside Punjab should also be ascertained.

Mrs Gandhi pointed out that there was no morcha [demonstration] or agitation for any demand when the Akali Dal was in power in the state.

The prime minister stressed that in reality there is no quarrel between the center and the states. If the center is weak, anyone can create problems.

Mrs Gandhi said the sacrifices and teachings of the Sikh gurus should serve as an example to everyone. She praised the courage and valor of Sikhs. She said several Sikh sportsmen have won medals in the ASIAD and the country is proud of their achievements.

Punjab Chief Minister Darbara Singh has appealed to the Akali leaders to give up the path of confrontation and respond favorably to the statement of the prime minister made today in Delhi. Talking to newsmen in Chandigarh today, he said they should accept her advice and not mix up their religious and other demands. He hoped that the Akalis will not lose this opportunity and will immediately approach the prime minister for settlement of their demands.

Darbara Singh said while the people of Punjab are winning laurels for the state at the national and international levels, more so in the ASIAD, the Akali leaders are trying to impede the progress of the state at home. He accused the Akalis of trying to tarnish the image of the country through their efforts to obstruct the holding of the ASIAD in Delhi.

MINISTERS RETURN FROM BANGLADESH-ASSAM BORDER

BK250939 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Nov 82

[Text] Defense Minister Venkataraman and Home Minister Sethi have expressed their full satisfaction over the arrangements made in the areas of Assam bordering Bangladesh to check infiltration into the state. The two ministers returned to New Delhi yesterday after visiting the checkpoints in Goalpara and Cachar districts of Assam for an on the spot assessment.

Sethi told newsmen that security measures on the 170-km border with Bangladesh mounted by the border security force and state police are not only adequate but very satisfactory. He said there is no evidence of any mass infiltration into the state as alleged by the Assam agitation leaders.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 1,137

LD291724 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Nov 82

[Communique No 1,137 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The situation at the fronts of the imposed war and the results of the operations of the combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran are brought to the attention of the dear compatriots.

At 0400 yesterday, the dying Saddamist forces mounted a feeble offensive on one of the fronts of the Moharram operation. The victorious and mighty combatants of Islam opened heavy artillery fire on the enemy forces and engaged them in combat, killing several Saddamist mercenaries, capturing 25, injuring several and destroying a considerable number of tanks and armored personnel carriers. Eventually, at 0730, the proud combatants of Islam forcefully repelled the enemy counteroffensive and maintained their superiority over the dying Saddamist forces by maintaining the initiative.

Again, at 0930, on another front in the same sector, the defeated enemy mounted an offensive. However, the mighty Islamic combatants bravely crushed the ineffective efforts of the Saddamists and forced them to flee.

During exchanges of fire on the Abadan fronts, the self-sacrificing combatants of Islam brought under fire enemy positions on the other side of the Arvand Rud, destroying four bunkers with their crews and silencing their fire.

Exchanges of fire continued sporadically yesterday on most of the western fronts. In the (Koqahaman) sector, thanks to artillery and heavy weapons fire of the combatants of Islam on an enemy armored column, enemy movements were halted and considerable losses and casualties were inflicted on the Saddamist forces.

During their recent successful operations in the western part of the country, the brave Muslim, Kurdish tribesmen killed eight Iraqi soldiers and captured two vehicles and one weapon.

Yesterday, thanks to antiaircraft fire and tactical measures taken by the fighter planes of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraqi planes intending to violate the airspace in western and southern border regions were forced to flee.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

STATEMENTS ISSUED ON PALESTINIAN SOLIDARITY DAY

Foreign Affairs Ministry

GF291800 Tehran IRNA in English 1713 GMT 29 Nov 82

[Text] Tehran, Nov 29 IRNA -- The Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran today, in a statement issued on the occasion of the solidarity day with the Palestinians, Nov. 29, pledged the people of Iran's support for the Palestinian cause.

The statement said that 35 years ago the United Nations through its resolution (partitioning of Palestine) caused the homelessness of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians.

Ever since, the oppressed and Muslim people of Palestine have been victims to all kinds of injustice, savagery and atrocities committed by the Zionist regime, the statement added. The regime occupying Quds was founded on the committing of inhuman acts and presently has gone even further and massacred the Muslim people of Lebanon. Human history will not forget crimes committed by criminals such as Begin and Sharon, in Sabra and Shatila refugee camps of Beirut, the statement stressed.

In another part of the statement it was pointed out that as long as the Zionist regime existed in the region, massacre, bloodshed and aggression would continued and the reactionary leaders of the region and United States plans and proposals concerning this issue will not solve the problems of Palestinians nor of Muslims.

The Foreign Affairs Ministry condemned desperate moves of Arab reactionary heads including the Fes conference resolutions as well as U.S. plans and proposals aimed at giving recognition to the Zionist regime. The Foreign Ministry, added the statement, considers these moves as efforts towards destruction of the Palestinian cause. The Islamic Republic of Iran, as it has been repeatedly announced, will not fail to extend any sort of assistance to the oppressed people of Palestine and Lebanon, the announcement added.

Khamene'i Message

LD291822 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Nov 82

[President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i message on the occasion of the day of solidarity with the Palestinian people, 29 November]

[Text] In His exalted name. The conscience of the world public is still wounded by the cruelty and savagery of the usurping Zionists in the Sabra and Shatila camps. The treason and collusion of some of the unpopular regimes in the region enabled imperialism and Zionism to expel the Palestinian fighters from Beirut and to scatter them to various countries. The bitter experience of humanity concerning the usurping occupation of Zionism during the past 35 years has shown that aggression is part of Israel's nature. It is contrary to any logic to compromise with such an element. The slaughter of the PLO fighters demonstrated the validity of our position in opposing the conspiracy to expel them.

It should not be doubted that the Israeli criminals will not stop at slaughtering people. They instead would make this a prelude to their great conspiracy to threaten and destroy the Palestinian aspiration and to establish the influence of the world-devouring America throughout the region. Their goal is to convince the countries in the region that the only solution to the Middle East crisis is to accept Camp David plans and to come under U.S. domination. We believe the expulsion of Palestinian fighters from Lebanon not only was not the end of the affair, but it will be the beginning of a new stage in the long struggles of the Arab and Muslim nations.

Due to its antityranny and antiarrogance characteristics and its policy of supporting the oppressed nations inspired by the exalted teachings of the Koran, the Islamic Republic of Iran once again announces that it will strongly support the Palestinian nation's rightful and legitimate struggle to return to its usurped land, to expel the occupiers of that land and to root out the Zionist occupiers whose regime is based on Zionist racism. Despite our 2-year involvement in the imposed war, we have never refrained from performing our Islamic and humane duties toward the Palestinian issue.

We are a country which, despite our involvement in the war imposed on us by Iraq, has dispatched its forces to the battlefronts of the war against Zionism. We believe the only fundamental solution of the Palestinian problem and the entire Middle East crisis is a serious confrontation with the policies of world arrogance and a sincere attempt to create unity among the Muslim countries, as well as emphasizing the Islamization of the Palestinian issue.

From this viewpoint , the Islamic Republic has always tried to emphasize the Islamic dimension of this issue. We believe a correct approach to the issue of Jerusalem will be a prelude to the salvation of the oppressed people who for many years have been subjected to the aggression, death and plunder of their enemies. Therefore, wherever the issue of Palestine is raised, we will be present. We believe fighting against bullies and aggressors such as the Zionist regime and its imperialist supporter, America, is the Islamic duty of all world Muslims and the human duty of all honorable members of the human family. We expect everybody who supports justice and international peace and security to take practical steps toward solidarity with the oppressed Palestinian people.

Having before us the blood which has been shed unjustly in Sabra and Shatila and which has stained the jackboots of the usurping Zionists, we announce to the conscience of the world that the mere expression of solidarity will not cure any ills. The professional criminals of the Zionist regime like Begin and Sharon who are responsible for these crimes should receive punishment for their deeds so that human conscience may be comforted. The Islamic Republic of Iran rejects appeasing plans which with a deceptive appearance and seemingly humane slogans wish to destroy the aspirations of the Palestinian people and to trample on that nation's most basic rights. It condemns the acquiescence of the superpowers concerning the Israeli crimes in Lebanon and believes it is only through the real and practical solidarity of the nations of the world with the deprived Palestinian people, their confronting of the inhuman activities of the aggressive Zionists and cutting off the hands of their imperialist supporters that true justice will be established and the oppressed Palestinian people will achieve their usurped rights.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran

TEHRAN TO HOST GLOBAL PRAYER CONGRESS 28 DEC

LD241050 Tehran IRNA in English 0925 GMT 24 Nov 82

[Text] Tehran, Nov 24, IRNA -- The first global congress on Friday and congregational prayers will be held here during "Unity Week", Dec. 28 to Jan 2, 1983, at the invitation of the prominent religious scholar Ayatollah Montazeri, it was announced Tuesday.

Minister of Ershad Islami (Islamic Guidance) Mohammad Khatami, Imam Khomeyni's representative in the reconstruction Jiad Abdollah Nouri, and Majlis Deputy Hadi Khamene'i will be members of the headquarters to supervise over the congress.

Khamene'i, who is also responsible for holding the congress said Tuesday that the indisputable principle of the spread of the message of the Islamic revolution necessitated to make utmost efforts to further increase the effect of revolutionary context of Friday prayers on world's opinion especially in the Islamic world.

Some 200 to 300 Friday and congregational prayers leaders had been invited from various countries, a number of whom would be deprived of by their governments to attend the congress since they would convey spiritual effects to their people after their close contacts with the Islamic revolution, which would be dangerous for their governments, Khamene'i added.

He said that even the guests from Iraq, the U.S. and Egypt had been invited although these countries had no relations with the Islamic Republic.

Khamene'i noted that the congress will meet annually and that Iran will be the center for its formation because if it was to meet in other countries where Islamic revolution had not taken shape, it might be affected by deviating stimulation of the regimes there.

BULGARIAN DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR TALKS 27 NOV

LD272024 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Nov 82

[Text] Andrey Lukanov, the deputy chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers, this afternoon arrived in Tehran, heading an economic delegation and accompanied by the under secretaries of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade and several other officials. He was welcomed by the minister of agriculture and the acting foreign affairs minister of our country.

In an interview on his arrival, he described the trip by the delegation as a positive step in strengthening economic and commercial relations between the two countries and expressed the hope that relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Bulgaria would expand.

The Central News Unit reports that the delegation this afternoon met and conferred with the agriculture and rural development minister. Mohammad Salamati welcomed the deputy chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers and thanked him for his proposal regarding the [word indistinct] participation of that country in reconstructing the war-stricken regions of our country. He said: Because of our common traditions and culture with the people of Bulgaria, we try to expand our economic, social and [word indistinct] relations with it.

The deputy chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers said: We have reviewed the changes which have occurred with the Islamic revolution in your country and we understand Iran's anti-imperialist stand. We know imperialism tries to blackmail and corrupt authentic revolutions in order to defeat them. Finally, praising the continued struggle of [word indistinct] and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran against American imperialism, he expressed the hope that the Islamic Republic of Iran, after dealing with the imposed war and in a peaceful environment free from foreign aggression, will be able to strengthen the Islamic revolution and reconstruct the country.

According to our correspondent, the Bulgarian delegation and experts of the Agriculture and Rural Development Ministry will form four committees dealing with agriculture, industry and energy, commerce and culture to study possibilities for expanding economic relations between the two countries.

Planning Discussed

LD281312 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Nov 82

[Text] According to a report by the Central News Unit, the Bulgarian deputy chairman and ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran met and conferred this morning with Dr Mohammad Taqi Banki, Iranian minister of state and head of the plan and budget organization.

During the meeting, Dr Banki said: You have come to a country unique in the world and whose youths have proved they are ready to make any sacrifice for their ideology. An outstanding example of this is the performance of the soldiers of Islam on the battlefronts.

The Bulgarian deputy chairman expressed his pleasure over traveling to the Islamic Republic of Iran and asked about the planning in Iran. Dr Banki explained the planning issue and the first 5-year plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He referred to this plan's priorities, particularly the agricultural sections. With the imam's guidance, agriculture is the axis of development in the first 5-year plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He added: In this plan for Iran's self-sufficiency and development, special attention has been paid to industry, education, health and the other sections.

Memorandum Signed

LD291650 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Nov 82

[Excerpts] The Central News Unit reports that Iran and Bulgaria have signed a memorandum of understanding in Tehran, expressing their interest in establishing extended economic cooperation in agriculture, industry, commerce, oil, finance, energy and transportation. This memorandum of understanding was signed by Mohammad Salamati, Iran's minister of agriculture and rural development, and Lukanov, deputy chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers in charge of economic affairs, at the end of the talks between high-ranking officials of the two countries today.

At the same time, the director general of consular affairs at the Foreign Affairs Ministry and his Bulgarian counterpart signed a consular agreement to provide visa facilities.

Our correspondent has talked to the agriculture and rural development minister about this memorandum of understanding.

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Salamati, in the past, economic relations between Iran and Bulgaria, especially in agriculture, were extensive. Would you please tell us what new cooperation is included in the memorandum of understanding signed today?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The memorandum of understanding that we and the Bulgarian economic delegation have signed covers agriculture, commerce, oil financial affairs, industry and energy. Various grounds for cooperation in these fields are included in the memorandum of understanding. As far as agriculture is concerned, the memorandum deals with the expansion of cooperation in research and training in agricultural industries, food industries such as canned food and preserves, as well as the timber industry, forestry and grazing land. It also mentions the exchange of information in connection with agriculture, exchange of improved seeds and assistance in this respect.

The petrochemical industries, construction of different petrochemical plants, chemical and pharmaceutical industries and the import of technology involved in making drugs for people and cattle are mentioned in the memorandum. We are interested and Bulgaria is willing to export the technology involved in making drugs to our country. Dams also are included. Bulgarian experts helped us in the past and worked here. In view of our 5-year plan to meet the energy requirements of agriculture, we hope the difficulties regarding dams under construction will soon be resolved and new contracts are to be signed with Bulgaria to help build new dams. This is reflected in our memorandum of understanding.

Other fields of cooperation include construction of transmission lines, distribution networks, thermal generating plants, technology for manufacturing metalware, such as iron and other metals, and communication, which comes under the section of industry.

regarding commerce and trade between the two countries, they are going to provide the foods we need. We are going to buy more fertilizer from Bulgaria, as well as tires, drugs, nonferrous metals, equipment and machinery.

An important point referred to in the memorandum, which we insist on, is the export of our nonoil goods to Bulgaria. In this memorandum, on our proposal, they agreed and undertook to increase their import of our nonoil goods five fold.

[Question] There have been many joint projects, especially in agriculture. Could you tell use how successful these have been?

[Answer] They have been fairly successful. In Neyshabur, Golpayegan and Garmsar, they have projects in operation. Of course, there have been small technical problems and these small problems will, God willing, be discussed and solved just like the understanding we have achieved now. The work will, God willing, have the desirable success and speed. [end recording]

SPEAKER ON ABUSE OF IRANIAN STUDENTS IN INDIA

GF251800 Tehran IRNA in English 1500 GMT 25 Nov 82

[Text] Tehran, Nov 25, IRNA -- Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Thursday hoped the Indian Government will view the affairs of the Iranian students studying in India on the basis of the facts.

Rafsanjani was talking to the students who recently completed their education from the universities from the sub-continent. Referring to the inhuman treatment of the Indian police against the Iranian Muslim students in Bangalore, south India, Majlis speaker said such behavior is not new for the Iranian students who want to convey the message of the Islamic revolution (?abroad). He said the Iranian students who have pledged for serving Islam are bound to face these difficulties and sufferings. He said the Iranian students have healthy objectives and no one could accuse them of being linked to the unhealthy channels.

Rafsanjani said that recent Zionist regime's massacres and attacks on Lebanon led to the Lebanese Muslims resistance. But, he said, the imperialist media attributed such resistance of the Muslims to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He said the Iranian students' sufferings in India are similar to those they faced in the United States, France and England. Rafsanjani said Iran deplores the fact that the Indian Government is threatening the Iranian students in such a way because India is a country which has a long history of struggle against the exploitation by colonialism and imperialism. He said he feels sorry that Indian Government did not pay attention towards the views presented by the Iranian officials. He said Iran may expect such behaviour from the United States and the Zionist regime and not from those calling themselves representatives of the Indian nation.

The speaker, however, hoped that the Indian officials will listen to the words of the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic and they will not be influenced by satans who just want to destroy the bilateral relations of India and Iran. He said that Iran does not want to harm its relations with India just because of these acts and hoped that the Indian Government will listen to him for better ties.

HASHEMI-RAFSANJANI 26 NOVEMBER SERMONS

LD261710 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Nov 82

[Excerpts] Since early this morning, the fervent and ever present people of Tehran filed towards the University of Tehran, meeting place of the vast multitudes taking part in Friday congregational prayers. Side by side with long lines of heroic members of moblilization units of the oppressed, they met to honor the memory of the heroic deeds of the fighters of Islam in battlefronts of the war against the mercenaries of arrogant satans.

The Friday sermons were given by the provisional Friday imam of Tehran, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Those who do not possess illegal wealth should not feel frightened. The Islamic Republic is dutybound to protect this wealth. However, those who know that their wealth has been acquired through illegal means, such as vast benefits through government transactions, should prepare themselves to pay the price and be accountable. Of course, this will be done cautiously and orderly and with the judgment of the courts. If God forbid, someone's wealth is confiscated without reason, the Islamic Republic should return it to him. This will be the basis of the Islamic Republic's dealings concerning illegal wealth.

The provisional Friday imam of Tehran devoted his second prayer sermon to current issues and problems. Concerning the gains of the Islamic Republic, he said: One of the very important gains of the revolution has been the fact that the revolution has been able to turn this country into the strongest order and the most stable and powerful government system in the region. This is at a time when our enemies are trying to portray the country as unstable and the order as shaky. With their propaganda, they are trying to deceive the people concerning this stability

Referring to the fact that toward the end of the shah's reign Iran was called an "island of stability," he said: It is interesting that these days Western propaganda refers to Iraq as the "island of stability."

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani then described the factors that lead to stability: The most important factor keeping a system stable is if the relationship between the government leaders and the people is based on friendship and trust. A regime dependent upon the people and the views of the people and that has the means for its existence cannot be destroyed, even by foreign occupation. With our revolution, we have been able to bring about conditions in our society under which people are confident that the officials want to set up order in the Islamic Republic. The most important factor in our society is the relationship between the people and God. No other factor is so profound and influential on our people as this.

Referring to the fact that about 4 billion people in the world are concerned with religion and that even in the Soviet Union after 60 years of fighting against religion and God the vast majority of people still think about spirituality, he said: This is clear proof that religion is an axis to retain the people's allegiance. The provisional Friday imam of Tehran added: If the Islamic Republic had wanted to ignore Islamic principles and teachings and if it had wanted to deviate the people from the original relationship between the people and God for the sake of which they took part in the revolution, it would have been toppled by now.

Referring to the fact that the continuation of the Islamic revolution of Iran is not as dependent upon the existence of the imam -- in the sense of the dependence upon the shah in the former regime -- and that the Islamic revolution is fully reliant upon the people themselves, the provisional Friday imam of Tehran said: The imam is an old man of 80-odd years and his life is limited. The enemies had pinned all their hopes on this and had kept their forces in reserve for the day when, God forbid, the imam will no longer be alive. Even that small window of hope -- thinking that our stability is only dependent upon the person of the imam -- has been denied our enemies.

In another part of his speech, referring to the false claims that Iranian forces participated in the siege of a garrison in Ba'albakk, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: [Begin recording] This allegation is an excuse to suppress the people of Lebanon even further. No, this was done by the Lebanese people themselves. They waited for a time, got organized and formed underground groups.

We also help them. I announce here: If they want weapons, we will give them weapons. If they want money, we will give it to them. If they require guidance, we will provide them with it. If they require propaganda, we will do it for them. Our radio is at their disposal.

However, it is a lie that Iranian soldiers surrounded the barracks of the Lebanese forces. On that day, the Lebanese forces were supposed to take part in a march in Ba'albakk to demonstrate the presence of the armed forces there. However, the Lebanese fighters said that we wanted to prevent them from going into the streets and telling the people that the armed forces were in charge. The Lebanese people themselves went and surrounded the barracks and prevented the march.

The main point is that not only is the Islamic Republic fully consolidated but it has even started its offensive stage -- not that we mean to be offensive. No, Islamic thought has started its offensive moves, the same thought that has maintained us here, something which they cannot understand. Western military analysts have gone to Baghdad, asking why the Muslims have become victorious but the Iraqis have failed. The Iraqis have not been able to provide them with an answer. Let us answer you. The reason for it is very clear: As already explained, our people prefer not to have life, not to have bread or house, but to have their faith.

Statistics given us by our brothers from the mobilization units are a source of pride. They are great. They say that since last year -- in only 1 year -- over 410,000 of this country's children, all of whom are volunteers, have taken part in training courses and have been sent to the fronts one or two or three times. These 410,000 volunteers are equal to 4 million ordinary soldiers.

You know that volunteers fight in a different way. Who has given us this? How can you account for it? In the car, Mahdavi-Kani was telling me that according to statistics of the mobilization headquarters, 2.5 million people have been trained during the same period. By God, if a regime is a little shaky does it dare to provide 2.5 million people with military training or to place weapons in the hands of these children? It means the regime is so confident that it opens the doors of the mosques to all people, to whoever wants to come and be trained. Of course, not the minigroups because they are traitorous. However, from among the ordinary people, whoever wants can come there and be trained, learn about weapons, about revolvers, about explosives. This is a sign of the confidence and the strength of the republic.

Just think about the mobilization itself. It is very simple and we have not spent a lot of money for it either. They have been mobilized with the least budget. For instance, if the Iraqis have spent so much to bring 2,000 Sudanese mercenaries, we have spent half that amount for sending 50,000 mobilization forces to the fronts and you know how they fought. We have not spent half the amount on these 50,000 as they have spent on the 2,000 brought from Jordan or Sudan. The people come by themselves and learn.

In the official mobilization statistics, it is stated that there are nearly 9,000 -- nearly 9,050 -- military groups formed from the mobilization forces. There are 6,000 resistance bases. It means at the moment 6,000 armed resistance bases have been formed by these children in the mosques and without any expenses. They even have some income through donations from their families. When I say without any expense, it may be a bit exaggerated. There is some expense.

There are more than 9,000 resistance groups, each of which has between 20 or 30 believing young men. They are mobilized so that they can suppress the slightest anti-Islamic and antirevolutionary movement in any part of the country. They are in the forests, in the villages, in the cities, in the towns. They have been organized by the people themselves. This is the source of the strength of the order. Its strength does not lie elsewhere. These children assist the gendarmerie in the towns, they assist the police in the cities, they assist the guards and the armed forces in the battles. In Kurdistan, they go and throw out the armed-to-their-teeth counterrevolutionaries to the mountains and the caves.

During this mobilization week, listen to their words, listen to their programs, encourage them. Especially in the mosques, the ulema, the Friday imams should guide, advise and encourage these young people who have gathered in the houses of God, in the mosques. Encourage them, teach them morality and make up for their shortcomings in their training. If this society is strong, if this republic has produced these gains, if our enemies are frightened, it is due to the embodiment of this strength which they witness but they are unaware of the basis of their work. [sentence as heard]

TEHRAN COMMITTEE HEAD FLEES TO FRANCE

GF291430 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 28 Nov 82

[Text] The head of Tehran's Committee No 14, Pakzad, has also escaped the Islamic Republic of Khomeyni. He is the son-in-law of one of the famous Iranian clergymen and he had sent around 27 million tumans of currency abroad before escaping to France accompanied by his wife and children.

He came to Paris on an Iranair flight and announced in the city that the regime's harshness forced him to flee Khomeyni's hell. Pakzad at first claimed that he escaped via the Pakistani border and had asked the French Government for political asylum. He is responsible for the murder of hundreds of people in Tehran and many of the confiscations were carried by guards under his command with his approval. The French Government has not yet granted Pakzad, the son-in-law of an imminent Qom clergyman, political asylum.